## TORO & ARSUAGA, LLC

**ENVIRONMENTAL COUNSELORS** 

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Sent by FedEx

September 21, 2020

Andrea Leshak, Esq.
Office of Regional Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
290 Broadway, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor
New York, New York 1007-1866
Leshak.andrea@epa.gov

Re:

Request for Information Pursuant to Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9604, as amended ("CERCLA") PROTECO Site, Peñuelas, Puerto Rico

Dear counsel Leshak:

Additional reference is made to the letter dated August 24, 2020 sent by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") and addressed to our client, Resources Management, Inc. ("RMI"), regarding the Request for Information ("RFI) pursuant to Sec. 104(e)(2) of CERCLA for the PROTECO site in Peñuelas, PR.

In response to Requests Nos. 6, 8, 9 and 10 of the RFI, attached please find a copy of the Asset Purchase Agreement, including its attachments among which you will find copies of the Landfill Development Agreement and the Special Waste Royalty Agreement.

RMI asserts a confidentiality claim covering part of the information requested, pursuant to Sections 104(e)(7)(E) and (F) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9604(e)(7)(E) and (F), and 40 C.F.R. §§ 2.201 to 2.311.

To comply with the confidentiality claim, all pages on the attached Asset Purchase Agreement, including the Landfill Development Agreement and the Special Waste Royalty Agreement have been stamped "CONFIDENTIAL".

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The portion of these documents entitled to confidential treatment include Confidential Business Information ("CBI"), not limited to financial information, trade secrets and other similar information for which protection from public disclosure is herein claimed.

If this CBI is disclosed and/or made public, it may be used by competing business companies and thus, have a negative effect on the business competitive position of the parties that appear in and execute these agreements. The waste hauling and disposal business in Puerto Rico is competitive, particularly in terms of pricing. Therefore, the disclosure of the information regarding payments made by the parties in these agreements could likely be used by competing companies if made part of the public domain. This would result in substantial harmful effect on the business's competitive position for the parties in these agreements. The competing companies may use the amounts of the payments to calculate competing pricing and modify theirs accordingly. This creates a causal relationship between disclosure and such harmful effects.

Since these agreements were executed, the parties have taken reasonable measures to protect the confidentiality of the information and intend to continue to do so. This confidential information has not been obtainable by legitimate means without RMI's consent.

The confidentiality claim for the attached agreements is made for a permanent time period.

To guard against the undesired disclosure of the information to others, the portions with the business terms in the agreements have been redacted. In the attachment, you will find both a clean and a redacted version of all the attached agreements.

Should you have any question regarding this matter, do not hesitate to contact us at your convenience.

Very cordially,

s/Rafael Toro Ramírez

Attachments

c: Dr. Jorge Fernández Zolymar Luna

Country To

Address

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**Shipment Information** 

**Total Packages** Shipper's Load and Count/SI\_AC

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